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WITHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1965

together with the

REPORT OF THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



WITHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman:

Councillor R.C. Bartlett.

Members:

Councillor Miss A.K. Gaze (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor S. Bidwell.

Councillor H.R. Hanford.

Councillor L.J. King.

Councillor Mrs. J.R. Last.

Councillor Mrs. J.M. Lyon.

Councillor W.A. Marsh.

Councillor A.E. Moss.

Councillor W.J. Pennell.

Councillor T.R. Mott, J.P., C.C. (ex-officio)

Councillor S.E. Smith (ex-officio)

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health:

C.R.C. Rainsford, M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M.

Chief Public Health Inspector and
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods:

E.H.C. Wadhams, F.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I., M.I.P.H.E.

Deputy Public Health Inspector and
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods:

D. Stedman, M.A.P.H.I.

Technical Assistant:

G.S. Gounder.


Clerical Assistants:

Mrs. F.A. Rowley (Secretary-Shorthand/Typist)

Miss S.A. Scopes (Junior Clerical Assistant)

Part-time General Assistant:

A.W. Jay.



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Public Health Offices,
Town Hall,
Braintree.

August, 1966.

To the Chairman and Members of
Witham Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my annual report for the year 1965 on the health, vital statistics and sanitary circumstances of the district. The general form of the report is as laid down by the Ministry of Health, and as usual I am indebted to the Area Medical Officer for providing information with regard to clinics and other health services controlled by the Essex County Council.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population is 10,666 an increase of 476 on 1964.

There were 223 live births, giving a corrected birth rate of 22.6 per 1,000 population.

Deaths numbered 96, and the corrected death rate is 8.7 per 1,000 which is appreciably below the national figure of 11.5

There were 4 infant deaths, giving an infantile mortality rate of 17.9 per 1,000 live births.

The causes of death were congenital abnormalities 3, and prematurity 1.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Only 47 cases were notified, the lowest number since 1960. Of these, 32 were of measles and 6 of infective hepatitis.

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION.

This service was carried out, as in previous years, by general practitioners and assistant County Medical Officers. Details will be found later in this report. I make no apology for once more drawing the attention of all concerned to the importance of having their children protected against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus, Poliomyelitis and Smallpox.

ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE.

Your Chief Public Health Inspector has covered this field in his usual efficient and comprehensive manner, and there is not much for me to add.

The Witham expansion programme got under way during the year, and accelerated progress may be expected over the next few years. In this connection you will find reference to extension of water supplies, sewerage and refuse disposal. Some augmentation of the Public Health staff will almost certainly become necessary in the near future.

The routine work of the department was carried out in a satisfactory manner throughout the year.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948 - SECTION 47.

It was not necessary to take any action under the provisions of the Act during the year.

It is again a pleasure to record my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their interest and support. My thanks go too to Mr. Wadhams and his staff for their hard work and co-operation, and to officers of other departments for their help and advice.

I am,
Yours faithfully,

C.R.C. RAINSFORD.

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Collingwood Road,
Witham,
Essex.

August, 1966.

To the Chairman and Members of
Witham Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting, in conjunction with the Report of the Medical Officer of Health, details of my Department's work during 1965, my twentieth year of office with your Council.

1965 must be regarded as a notable year in the district's history, as it saw the beginning of the building of the new Witham, the first contracts of the town development scheme being put in hand. The agreed scheme, to rehouse 3,000 overspill families from the Greater London area, as incorporated in the draft town map, will produce a district population of 25-26,000 people, mainly by 1973-74. Further enquiry from Government level during the year asking the Council to consider possible extra development to 40,000 population was approved by the Council, but this has not yet received the blessing of the County Planning Authority.

Although major schemes of sewer and water mains extensions and site development for the first estates were in progress at the end of 1965, the year's overall total of new dwellings was disappointing. No new Council houses were completed, though 70 were under way, while private enterprise building completed only half the number of those built in the previous year. Applications for Council housing rose slightly during the year.

Little progress was made with clearance of substandard property, as this service necessarily depends on current house building to rehouse displaced families. It is hoped, however, that completion of the estates now commenced will enable the Council to deal with the few remaining dwellings, mostly of borderline quality, likely to call for consideration under this head. Improvement work by way of grant aid increased however, though not to the extent which could be desired. A great many soundly built cottages remain lacking in modern amenity,

and it may be that the Council will be constrained to use the compulsory powers of the 1964 Housing Act to achieve a worthwhile break through in this respect.

The sewage disposal needs of the future town will be met by the provision of a large, modern purification plant, the first two stages of which, to cope with 1,000,000 gallons per day, will commence in 1966. Completion of these by early 1968 should see disposal capacity in advance of development requirements and further phases of plant extension will follow as required. The Council has in mind the possibility of bringing the Silver End sewage to Witham for treatment, thus doing away with one of the two smaller disposal works. Mention must again be made of the value of the effluent polishing lake at Witham, without which the overload on the present Witham plant would have brought current development to a standstill.

Refuse collection was put on to a new footing during the year by the adoption of a collection bonus system. It is hoped that this will enable efficient collection to be maintained in the more competitive atmosphere of a quickly developing town. On the other hand, disposal problems are beginning to be foreseen, and a reassessment of capacity available for refuse tipping will probably indicate that a major scheme for separating and pulverising refuse (possibly composting it with sewage sludge) would be advisable.

Other routine work of the department in such matters as food hygiene, shops and offices, clean air, pest control, nuisances and the allied subsidiary duties has been maintained, though necessarily affected by the pressure of the many problems associated with the town development scheme.

Once again I have to thank the Department's office and manual staff for their work and loyal support during the year. I must also express my appreciation of the help I have received from the Clerk of the Council and other officers. My thanks are also due to the Council and the members of the Public Health Committee for the interest and encouragement they have accorded the department during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

E.H.C. WADHAMS.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

STATISTICS AND LOCAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	7,329
Population (Registrar General's estimate)	10,666
Number of inhabited houses	3,562
Rateable value	£480,221
Sum represented by a penny rate	£2,001

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
Legitimate	217	123	94	
Illegitimate	6	3	3	
Total live births - 223				
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population				20.9
Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births				2.7
Birth rate corrected by comparability figure of 1.08				22.6
Birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 population				18.0

STILL BIRTHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
Legitimate	1	-	1	
Illegitimate	2	2	-	
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births 13.3				
Rate per 1,000 total births England and Wales 15.7				
Total live and still births - 226				

INFANT DEATHS

Deaths of infants under 1 year -

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	4	4	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total infant deaths - 4			

INFANT MORTALITY RATES

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	17.9
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	18.4
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	13.5
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	4.5
Perinatal mortality rate (still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	17.7
Infantile mortality for England and Wales per 1,000 live births...	19.0

MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortion)

Number of deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

DEATHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
	96	58	38	
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	...	9.0
Death rate corrected by comparability figure of 0.97	...	...	...	8.7
Death rate per 1,000 population England and Wales	...	...	...	11.5

All the above rates are calculated on the estimated population given by the Registrar General.

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES.

The table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar General and the Classification is given under the thirty-six headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death 1948.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	1	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infections	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	1
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5	2
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3	4
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-
16. Diabetes	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	7
18. Coronary disease, angina	9	3
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1	-
20. Other heart disease	5	4
21. Other circulatory disease	2	1
22. Influenza	-	-
23. Pneumonia	4	4
24. Bronchitis	4	-
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	3	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	4	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	7
33. Motor vehicle accidents	-	1
34. All other accidents	1	1
35. Suicide	-	-
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-
	—	—
All causes	58	38
	—	—

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

(a) Under the control of the Essex County Council:-

(i) Clinics were held at the following Centres during the year:-

WITHAM Essex County Health Services Clinic, Guithavon Street.

			<u>Attendance</u>
Child Welfare	1st and 3rd Wednesdays	2 p.m.	1,624
School Clinic	1st & 3rd Thursdays	9 a.m.	490
Dental	2nd, 4th & 5th Thursdays and every Friday	10 a.m. (By appt.)	736
Speech Therapy (No Speech Therapist since April 1965)	Every Friday	(By appt.)	36

SILVER END Garden Village Hall.

Child Welfare	1st Friday	2 p.m.	385
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RIVENHALL Church Hall.

Child Welfare	3rd Monday	2 p.m.	232
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(ii) Home Help Service.

This useful service is administered from the Area Health Office, 75 Springfield Road, Chelmsford.

(iii) Ambulance Service.

The Essex County Council Ambulance Station is situated at Guithavon Street, Witham. There is one ambulance and one car for sitting cases. A full 24-hour cover is provided.

(iv) Laboratory Services.

The Essex County Council provide a laboratory service which includes the bacteriological and chemical analysis of water samples, the chemical analysis of sewage effluents and the bacteriological examination of ice cream, and the examination of other foods for pathogenic organisms. These examinations are carried out by either the Counties Public Health Laboratories, Gray's Inn Road, London W.C.1. or the Public Health Laboratory, Chelmsford and Essex Hospital, New London Road, Chelmsford.

(b) Under the control of the North-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board.

(i) Chest Clinics. Held twice weekly at St. Michael's Hospital, Braintree.

(ii) Orthopaedic Clinics. Orthopaedic patients who need special advice are referred to Notley Hospital where a clinic is held every fourth Tuesday morning.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	Total Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-
Erythemic Fever	-	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	6	-	-
Measles	32	-	-
Staphylococcal Infection	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-
Intermittent Pyrexia	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Non-Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	4	1	-
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	4	-	-
Totals	47	1	-

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED MONTH BY MONTH

DISEASES	Total Notified	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	6	-	5	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	32	1	-	-	1	5	6	10	9	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	4	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	4	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals	47	3	5	1	1	8	6	10	9	1	-	-	3

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED ACCORDING TO AGE.

DISEASES	At all ages.													65 and over	Age unknown
	Under 1 year														
	1	2	3	4	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 19	20 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 64					
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	1	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	32	2	2	3	3	3	3	9	2	1	-	-	-	-	5
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	4	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	47	3	3	4	4	3	10	3	3	-	5	1	3	5	

TUBERCULOSIS

The following Table gives particulars of the 4 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified during the year.

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 9 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 14 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 19 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 34 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 44 "	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 64 "	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Primary Courses	By General Practitioners	By County Staff	Totals
Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus	127	34	161
Diphtheria and Tetanus	-	5	5
Diphtheria	-	7	7
Pertussis	1	-	1
Tetanus	2	10	12
Poliomyelitis	129	63	192
Smallpox	123	-	123
B.C.G.	-	75	75
<u>REINFORCING DOSES</u>			
Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus	17	1	18
Diphtheria and Tetanus	16	34	50
Diphtheria	3	41	44
Pertussis	-	-	-
Tetanus	9	74	83
Poliomyelitis	25	123	148
Smallpox	10	-	10

HOUSING

The increased overall rate of house building noted in 1964 was not maintained during 1965. No Council properties were completed during the year, and only 95 private enterprise houses were completed during the period, as compared with 173 during the previous year.

However, Council schemes to provide a warden type flatlet hostel of 30 units, and an estate of 70 houses and bungalows, were commenced during the year.

One small area of land was sold to individuals or small private developers as building plots.

During the year a start was made on the first of the estates being built by the Greater London Council for the Witham Urban District Council under the overspill agreement scheme. This Phase I scheme is to contain 440 houses of various types, and 2 shops, and is scheduled for completion in August 1967, by which time the next area (Phase IIa) should be well in hand.

Including overspill houses, the Council's housing programme to 1968, submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in May 1965, comprises the following classes:-

For normal local needs:	292 dwellings.
For slum clearance rehousing:	40 dwellings.
For aged persons:	112 dwellings.
For overspill:	934 dwellings.
For sale:	420 dwellings.

The number of dwellings erected in the Urban District since 1945 is as follows:-

By Local Authority:	808 (including 84 prefabricated bungalows and 77 Houses for Sale)
By Private Enterprise:	722

The number of applicants for council houses at the end of 1965 was 195 compared with 183 at the end of 1964. The lists were composed of the following categories at 31st December 1965:-

	<u>Main</u>	<u>Supplementary</u>	<u>Total</u>
Ordinary list	29	31	60
Exchange list	2	-	2
Old Persons Bungalows	18	17	35
Bungalow Exchange list	27	-	27
Single Person Units	4	4	8
Engaged Couples list	6	21	27
River View Hostel	36	-	36

Pre-War Council Houses.

No further systematic improvement of pre-war Council houses was undertaken, all pre-1930 houses having been modernised by the end of 1963. Modernisation of a further 186 houses built between 1930 and 1939 has yet to be decided.

Housing and Public Health Acts.

With regard to sub-standard private houses, the following data shows the work undertaken during the year:-

(a) Clearance Orders:	Orders submitted	Nil
	Orders confirmed	Nil
	Houses vacated	4
	Houses demolished	5
(b) Demolition Orders:	Orders made	Nil
	Orders recommended	Nil
	Houses vacated	1
	Houses demolished	1
(c) Closing Orders:	Orders made	1
(d) Voluntary Undertakings by owners:	Houses demolished	Nil
	Houses not re-occupied	1
(e) Rehousing by Local Authority:	Families rehoused	4

The following was the state of condemned and closed properties at the end of the year:-

Houses in Clearance Areas awaiting demolition:	Occupied	13
	Vacant	-
Houses subject to Demolition Orders:	Vacant	1
Parts of houses subject to Closing Orders:		11
Houses subject to Closing Orders:	Vacant	1
Houses and flats subject to undertakings not to re-let:		4

In 1955 the Council submitted its Clearance Programme for the next five years to the Minister of Housing and Local Government. At that time a total of 57 houses was listed as unfit and suitable for clearance. Since then 59 properties have been demolished. While slum property, as such, can be said no longer to exist in Witham, there is still a small number of dwellings of the cottage type which fall far short of modern standards of amenity and which cannot practicably or economically be brought up to these standards. 63 such dwellings including some of those already condemned, were listed for attention when the Council's 1965-68 housing programme was submitted.

Housing Acts 1949-64
Improvement Grants.

During the year a further 22 applications for grant aid were received and dealt with.

Details of application for Discretionary Grant received during the past 6 years are as follows:-

	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>
Submitted	7	-	1	1	9	-
Granted	7	-	1	1	9	-
Refused	-	-	-	-	-	-
Withdrawn	-	2	-	-	-	-
Schemes completed	-	5	-	-	5	2

There were 4 schemes outstanding at the end of 1965.

Details of applications received for Standard Grants since their inception in 1959 are as follows:-

	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>
Submitted	11	20	8	7	16	22
Granted	11	20	8	7	16	22
Withdrawn	1	-	-	-	2	-
Schemes completed	10	13	13	8	9	18
Outstanding at 31.12.65.	-	7	2	1	6	10

The following table summarises action taken in connection with the inspection of dwellinghouses during the year 1965:-

Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year:-

(a)	Total number inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	113
(b)	Number found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	39
(c)	Number (exclusive of those referred to under sub-heading (b) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	42

Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice:-

(a)	Number of houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority (or its Officers)	29
(b)	Number of other defective conditions remedied after informal action by Local Authority (or its Officers)	41

Action under Statutory Powers - Housing Acts 1936-61:
Public Health Acts 1936-61.

(a)	Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	2
(b)	Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit after service of formal notice	2

WATER SUPPLY.

The supply position remains as in previous years, the Council supplementing its own Bradwell Spring source by water purchased from the South Essex Water Company, whose trunk main from Abberton skirts the urban district. The proposal for the Council to transfer its undertaking to this Company, previously referred to, is in abeyance.

The quality of both supplies is consistently satisfactory, as shown by frequent analysis. Pressure generally is adequate throughout the district. Further increasing demand and town development requirements are to be met by the provision of a new large capacity high level reservoir in the near future, for which a scheme was being drawn up by the Council's Consulting Engineers at the end of the year.

A summary of sample reports is given below:-

	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Mains Water.</u>			
Chemical	13	-	13
Bacteriological	18	-	18
<u>Other Supplies.</u>			
Bacteriological	19	13	32

The unsatisfactory bacteriological reports were in respect of two private supplies. In the first case, samples were taken from a well supply to ascertain its suitability for domestic purposes. Micro-strainers have been installed to remove the low level of contamination. In the second case samples were taken from a disused well, from which it was proposed to use the water for drinking purposes if suitable.

Typical reports of the chemical analyses of the mains supplies are given below:-

Bradwell Springs Supply (30.9.65.)

"The water is very hard in character but it contains no excess of mineral or saline constituents in solution. It is of a high standard of organic quality and bacterial purity. These results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water." The fluoride content of this water was found to be less than 0.1 p.p.m. whereas that of the South Essex Supply varies between 0.17 and 0.3 p.p.m.

Mixed Public Supply (6.4.65.)

"The water is very hard in character but contains no excess of mineral or saline constituents in solution. The degree of organic impurity is very moderate and the bacteriological results show a high standard. These results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water."

House Connections, etc.

Number of separate dwellings in the Urban District	3562
Number of separate dwellings having internal piped mains supply	3525
Estimated population so served	10017
Number of separate dwellings connected during the year	95
Number of separate dwellings served by standpipe	9
Estimated population so served	22
Remaining houses served by shallow wells or springs	28
Estimated population so served	91

The following extensions to the Council's mains were made during the year:-

3"	760 yds.
4"	340 yds.
6"	1220 yds.
9"	1040 yds.

All new mains are super-chlorinated by the Council's staff before being put into use.

Water Consumption and future requirements.

The Council's Engineer and Surveyor has supplied the following figures of the total water supplied from the Council's mains during the year:-

1. Bradwell Springs:-	
(a) To Silver End (estimated)	29,825,000 gallons.
(b) To remainder of Urban District (estimated)..	68,874,000 gallons.
2. South Essex Water Company	128,822,000 gallons.
3. ex Braintree R.D.C. main (Bradwell)	39,800 gallons.
	<hr/>
	227,560,800 gallons.

Average consumption per head per day:-

Domestic demand	34.03 gallons.
Trade demand	26.16 gallons.
Total consumption per head per day	60.19 gallons.

Total consumption per head per day shows a reduction of 10% over the previous year, due mainly to a decrease in trade consumption compared with previous years.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

A further 95 properties were connected to the Council's sewers during the year. Drainage facilities in use in the Urban District at 31st December 1965 were as follows:-

Houses connected to main sewer systems	3444
Houses drained to septic tanks, cesspools, etc. ...	104
Houses drained to ditches	11
Houses without drainage	3
	<hr/>
	3562
	<hr/>

Sewer Systems:

The following extensions to the Council's sewers were made during the year:-

Foul Sewers:

6"	682 yds.
9"	1308 yds.
12"	88 yds.
21"	910 yds.

Surface Water Sewers:

6"	550 yds.
9"	970 yds.
12"	630 yds.
15"	210 yds.
18"	220 yds.
21"	120 yds.
27"	530 yds.
30"	100 yds.
33"	250 yds.
36"	200 yds.
39"	80 yds.
42"	190 yds.

Except for one small section, all sewer systems gravitate to the respective works.

A major scheme for a further low level trunk sewer system to supplement the existing low level system and to serve a large part of the town development area was commenced towards the end of the year. The new system will serve the future western and northern areas of the town, and also relieve the overload on the present low level system.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

There are four major sewage disposal plants in the Urban District, three of which are owned by the Council. The three Urban District sewage works serve the communities of Witham, Silver End and Rivenhall. The fourth works is operated privately.

WITHAM SEWAGE WORKS.

The overload on this plant continued to increase with further development of the district. But for the effluent lagoon previously described, the plant would have been unable to achieve a satisfactory standard of purification. Even so, by the end of the year, the degree of nitrification which had been maintained at a high level began to fall off, and this was taken by the Essex River Authority as an indication that loading on the plant was reaching its limit. Preparation of a scheme for the threefold enlargement of the works was nearing completion in December, but it was apparent that no part of the new extension could become operative before 1967, and concern was felt regarding the development already approved and anticipated, which was expected to take place in the district during the intervening period. After discussions with the Board's officers and the Council's Consulting Engineers, the Council approved a provisional scheme for recirculating part of the effluent in an effort to re-establish sufficient margin of purification to cope with this period.

As in previous years, sludge drying proved to be one of the major difficulties of sewage disposal. It is true to say that had not land been available for the provision of temporary drying lagoons, this aspect alone could have brought development to a halt several years ago. The sludge problem will be aggravated, it is feared, during the period of the works extension because the extensive area of improvised lagoons will have to be abandoned to allow the contractors to proceed, and temporary sludge drying facilities will have to be provided elsewhere. The extension scheme, details of which were given in the 1964 report, includes provision for mechanical sludge dewatering, which should eliminate this problem once and for all.

Another scheme allied to that of sewage works extension is the Brain Valley outfall sewer scheme already mentioned, the outfall of which will be to the proposed new works pumping station.

SILVER END SEWAGE WORKS.

This plant, also overloaded, continued to cope fairly satisfactorily with the disposal requirements of the Silver End drainage area, but it has become increasingly apparent that increased purification capacity must be

provided shortly. Reports by the Council's officers and consultants led the Council to decide that rather than extend the present plant it would be better to link the Silver End area to the Witham town sewage works. The Council's Consulting Engineers were instructed to prepare a report on various routes for a trunk sewer to serve this purpose.

Meanwhile private development which the Council has provisionally approved and would like to proceed at Silver End has had to be postponed until the additional capacity has been provided.

RIVENHALL SEWAGE WORKS.

Gauging of effluent flow to this small plant indicated that during the major part of a normal week it was receiving its full designed flow of 18,000 gallons per day. It serves the village areas of Rivenhall, and as no extensive development is anticipated here, it should be able to serve the needs of this area with only minor modification for many years to come.

RIVENHALL CAMP SEWAGE WORKS.

This plant was in use only for a few weeks during 1965, when it operated to treat the seasonal effluent from a large pea vining factory in the vicinity.

SAMPLING OF SEWAGE EFFLUENT.

	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	<u>Total</u>
Witham Sewage Works	46	4	50
Silver End Sewage Works	6	2	8
Rivenhall Sewage Works	4	4	8
	—	—	—
	56	10	66
	—	—	—

The unsatisfactory Witham sample reports were all in respect of effluents temporarily containing large numbers of crustacea. The unsatisfactory samples from Silver End and Rivenhall occurred at the time of the spring flush of humus from the filter beds.

The Witham and Silver End plants receive large proportions of industrial effluent in their flows, and analysis of effluent has to include for establishing the extent to which the constituents of these are present. Control maintained by the Council on industrial effluents is described elsewhere.

FARMLAND.

Cultivation of sewage works land amounted to 17 acres. Crops grown were winter wheat and barley, with a resulting income of £416.12.1d., approximately £157.13.10d. of which represented profit on the year's undertaking.

<u>Season.</u>	<u>Crops.</u>	<u>Profit.</u>	<u>Loss.</u>
1947-48	Wheat, potatoes	63. 7.10.	
1948-49	Wheat, potatoes	294. 1. 4.	
1949-50	Wheat	2.19. --	
1950-51	Clover, Mangold, Flax	-- -- --	58. 7. 7.
1951-52	Flax, Wheat	128.19. 3.	
1952-53	Wheat, Clover, Flax	335. 3. --	
1953-54	Wheat, Flax	212.19.10.	
1954-55	Wheat, Flax	229.14. 5.	
1955-56	Wheat, Runner Beans	279. 4. 4.	
1956-57	Wheat, Runner Beans, Sugar Beet, Marrows	-- -- --	193. 3. 5.
1957-58	Wheat, Runner Beans, Sugar Beet, Marrows	104.15. 8.	
1958-59	Wheat, Barley, Runner Beans, Broad Beans, Lucerne	67.13. 9.	
1959-60	Wheat, Barley, Runner Beans, Wallflower, Lucerne	-- -- --	11. -- --
1960-61	Wheat, Runner Beans	-- -- --	45. 3. --
1961-62	Wheat, Runner Beans	6. 5. 8.	
1962-63	Wheat, Barley	25.12. 9.	
1963-64	Wheat, Barley	92. 9. 9.	
1964-65	Wheat, Barley	157.13.10.	
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		2001. -- 5.	307.14. --
		<hr/>	<hr/>
	Net Profit	£1693. 6. 5.	
	Annual net profit	£94. 1. 6.	
	Annual rental prior to 1947	£33.12. 6.	

Cultivation of the land provides a means of disposal for the ever increasing quantities of sewage sludge, but this has the effect of producing very heavy weed growth when repeated over several years. It is proposed therefore in 1966 to fallow the land for the purpose of destroying the accumulated weed growth.

DRAINAGE OF TRADE PREMISES.

Close control of the large quantities of industrial effluent discharged to sewer has been maintained continuously since 1949. In the majority of cases, following estimation of rates and strength of flow and agreement as to means of pre-treatment where required, the discharges are measured by recording instruments installed by the Council. These indicate the extent to which such discharges comply with the quantitative terms of the Council's Agreements with the various companies, whilst periodic sampling for chemical analysis checks observance of the qualitative conditions. Seven such agreements, in the terms allowed by the Public Health (Drainage of Trade Premises) Act 1937, as extended by the Public Health Act 1961, are now in force. Some have already been amended and renewed several times.

Only in one case during the year was any serious trouble encountered. This was not in relation to adverse effect of the discharge on sewers or sewage purification, but due to the rapid fermentation of the effluent which led to excessive odour production in the sewer system and resulting complaint from the vicinity of ventilating points. This was being brought under control at the end of the year.

The types of trade effluents being discharged to the Council's sewers are as follows:-

Metal Processing:	various:	3 main discharges.
Dairy wastes:		2 discharges.
Poultry Packing:		1 discharge.
Fruit Pulping and concentrate:		1 discharge.
Maltings:		1 discharge.
Etching and Engraving:		1 discharge.

26 samples of trade waste were submitted for laboratory analysis for routine trade waste examination or as spot samples for special examination.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Street sweeping, road gritting and other highway cleansing services are maintained respectively by the Essex County Council Highways Department and the Council's Works Department on the county and district roads.

The remaining services, refuse collection and disposal, salvage recovery, cesspool and gully emptying and sewer flushing are administered by the Council's Public Health Department.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Collection:

The weekly collection of house refuse from all parts of the urban district was maintained during the year. As difficulty had been experienced over recent years in obtaining labour for this service at the nationally agreed wage rate in competition with rates paid by local industry, the collection service was put on an incentive bonus basis in March, in the hope that this would remedy the labour difficulty and assist in coping with the increasing collection work. By the end of the year it was possible to report that both these objects had been attained.

The scheme has worked smoothly, fewer men are employed on collection than before its inception, though there has been a considerable increase in the number of premises to be served during that time. The average bonus per man amounted to about £3 per week during the year. The staff have been informed and accept that the bonus cannot increase indefinitely with increased work, and that adjustments will have to be made as and when additional staff have to be allocated. This should not mean that the bonus will reduce to a less than attractive figure.

Following preliminary consideration in 1964, the Council decided in 1965 to try out the paper sack system of refuse storage on two new estates, one small estate of 70 council houses, and another larger estate of 440 houses comprising the first overspill estate. The erection of these estates had not proceeded far enough by December for these trials to commence. It is hoped that the new system will prove, as it has done elsewhere, cleaner and more hygienic, less costly of labour, and more suited to the cul-de-sac and pedestrian precinct type of estate which has now become fashionable. A further point in favour of paper sacks is that with the increase in bulk of house refuse and the inability (and undesirability) of householders to burn it, duplicate containers will eventually be necessary, and sacks are obviously the more suitable in such circumstances.

Disposal:

Controlled tipping was maintained on the Council's marshland site adjoining the sewage works and within the confluence of the Rivers Blackwater and Brain. Here some 15 acres of marshland, acquired in 1963, will meet the requirements of the district for the opening years of the town development scheme. In view of the ultimate population now being discussed, however, it is probable that the Council will have to consider the provision of either additional tipping space or an alternative method of refuse disposal within the next 3-5 years. In this connection it may well be that the inclusion of a sludge dewatering process in the new sewage works will make practicable the composting of refuse and sludge, a scheme for which the Council considered a few years ago. At that time it was felt not to be economic for the size of the town. This, and its inability to absorb the whole of the (raw) sludge led to the scheme being left in abeyance.

At present levelling and covering of the refuse is effected by means of a 1 cu. yd. mechanical shovel digger, which is also used to excavate the lagoons used for reception of trade waste sludge.

SALVAGE.

During 1965 the importance of salvage recovery by local authorities was emphasised nationally by Government departments as contributing to the national economy by providing raw material for home use and for export. Salvage recovery also has the advantage of removing from the refuse to be disposed of a great bulk of the lighter material, cardboard, paper, rags, etc., and thus by increasing the density of the tipped refuse, conserving tipping space and reducing risk of fire. It would be nice if one could say also that the scheme produced a profit, but this has not been the case for some years, though the income has usually exceeded all the direct expenditure involved. Figures for the financial years 1964-65 and 1965-66 are set out in the following table:-

	1964-65				1965-66			
	Weight			Value	Weight			Value
	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	£. s. d.	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	£. s. d.
Waste Paper	227	14	1	1914.12. 6.	213	10	0	2042.16.11.
Rags	4	8	2½	79.15. 3.	5	5	3	89.13.11.
Sacking		2	2	5. 4. 0.		7	1	4. 8. 9.
Scrap Iron	4	1	3	21.16. 8.	4	12	2	43.16. 4.
Non-Ferrous Metal	7	5	2	58.14. 8.	1	2	1	21. 7. 8.
Miscellaneous				9. 6.		7	0	1.18.10.
TOTALS	243	11	2½	2080.12. 7.	225	4	3	2204. 1. 7

During the year 1965-66 a bonus amounting to £220.8s.2d. was paid to the staff.

DERELICT VEHICLES

Following Ministry of Housing and Local Government recommendation, the Essex County Council circularised all local authorities in the county, urging the setting up of arrangements for the clearance and disposal of abandoned motor vehicles, particularly from highways and road verges. Collecting centres to which such vehicles could be taken were arranged by the County for those districts requiring them. At Witham, however, it was found possible to adapt the salvage recovery service to cope with the ultimate disposal of the scrapped vehicles, and a considerable number had been disposed of by the end of the year. In all cases where the registration number or other identity of the vehicle can be established, its disposal for scrap is notified to the vehicle registration officer.

CESSPOOL, GULLEY EMPTYING AND SEWER FLUSHING.

The following work was performed by the Council's cesspool emptying vehicles during the year:-

	<u>Cesspools</u>	<u>Loads</u>
Domestic emptyings (free service)	148	173
Rechargeable work	264	541
Trade Waste removal		1652

A second tanker vehicle was purchased in 1965, and this was brought into service in February. The new tanker has a carrying capacity of 1400 gallons, as against 1100 gallons for the existing tanker.

The above table shows an increase of some 50% in domestic free service emptyings over the previous year. This service had been neglected to some extent during the 12 months before the second vehicle was brought into service.

Although the number of loads of trade waste removed shows a decrease of some 20% over the previous year, this is accounted for by the use of the new larger tanker for sludge removal. In fact the amount of sludge removed from local factories showed a slight increase over the previous year.

In addition to the above removal work, the tanker vehicles carry out cleansing of all district road gullies three times annually, and also perform periodic sewer flushing.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

A total of 2,519 visits and inspections were made during the year, as follows:-

Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	544
Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	403
Verminous Premises:	Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
	Disinfestations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Complaints	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	62
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Ice-Cream Vendors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Food Preparation Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Poultry Packing Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Sampling:	Ice-Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
	Water	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
	Food	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
	Sewage Effluents and Trade Waste	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	73
Shops Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	93
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
Streams and Watercourses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Drains and Sewers:	Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	152
	Tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Cesspools, Septic Tanks, pail closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Refuse Tip	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	205
Sewage Works	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	257
Salvage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Atmospheric Pollution	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	65
Council House Applicants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Scrap Metal Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Derelict Vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	82

In addition, a total of 426 interviews were given to tenants, landlords, builders and other interested parties.

Nuisances, etc. on Books, with Number of Notices Served,
Public Health Acts only.

Number of Notices outstanding	15
Number of Intimation Notices served during the year	81
Number of Statutory Notices served during the year	2
Number of Notices complied with during the year	72
Number of Notices outstanding on books, 31st December 1965	26

The following list classifies the nuisances and defects dealt with:-

Dampness, rising and penetrative	17
Defective brickwork, rendering and pointing, etc.	17
Defective roofs, parapets, gutters, R.W.Ps. etc.	23
Defective ceilings and walls	11
Defective doors, windows and floors	37
Defective cooking ranges, firegrates and flues	7
Defective W.C. structures	4
Drainage defects	38
Inadequate means for disposal of surface water	8
Defective yard surface	3
Defective water service pipes, inadequate or polluted supplies	9
Absence/defective conditions of dustbins	16
Offensive accumulations and conditions	5
Offensive smells/noise/fumes	9
Nuisance from keeping of animals, poultry or pigeons	3
Infestations: Rats and mice	123
Vermin and insects	4

FACTORIES ACTS 1937-1959.

During the year a total of 25 visits were paid to factories and workshops throughout the district, which figure does not include visits to Food Preparation Premises also classified as Factories, as these are dealt with under another heading. Conditions generally were found to be satisfactory. At the end of 1965 the number of outworkers on the register was 103, comprising:-

	<u>Witham U.D.C.</u>	<u>Other Local Authorities.</u>
Glove Manufacturers	16	81
Seed Merchants	6	

Notification of outworkers employed in other districts are sent to the Local Authorities concerned.

Details of the inspections made during the year of premises in the Urban District under the Factories Acts are given in the Table below:-

FACTORIES ACTS 1937-1959.

1. INSPECTION for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by local authorities.	2	7	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by local authority.	55	89	4	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers)	11	21	5	Nil
	68	117	9	Nil

2. CASES in which DEFECTS were found:

	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):-				
(a) Insufficient	2	2	-	2
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	4	-	1
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outworkers)	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	7	6	-	3

Laborious checking of complaints into noise, smell and dust alleged to come from an animal feeding stuffs factory was maintained. With the ready co-operation of the Company, conditions were considerably improved.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The lease of the Council's caravan site was renewed in 1963, the Council having decided to keep the site in operation for a further period.

The site has space for 12 trailer caravans, and in addition to the proper basic amenities of hard standing, water supply, W.C. accommodation, drying ground and waste disposal facilities, electricity supply is now available to each occupier. The Council has considered its replacement by a larger modern site, but this scheme has had to be deferred because of cost and difficulty in deciding a suitable location.

On two private sites, members of the Showman's Guild stationed their caravans during the permitted winter months, and I am pleased to record the high standards observed by these persons.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963.

During the first full year of operation of this Act, the Department attempted to complete the initial registration of all premises involved, and first visits to them. By 31st December 130 premises were registered in the district, 69 of which were visited for the first time. Follow-up visits and surveys were conducted of a further 38 premises. 21 contraventions of various requirements of the Act were found. These were generally of a minor nature, and the co-operation of the managements was readily forthcoming. No formal action was necessary during the year.

One aspect of this work is of some concern. The almost complete absence of reports of accidents in offices and shops in the district is obviously too good to be true, and managements must be made aware that the very vital provisions of the act intended to reduce incidence of accidental injury and ensure its prompt and adequate attention when it occurs must be scrupulously observed. The recording and reporting of the accident to the local authority is not the least important of these requirements.

SHOPS ACTS.

With the repeal of the sanitary and welfare provisions of the Shops Act 1950 on their replacement by the wider provisions of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, no duties remain to the district council under this legislation. The Essex County Council continue to operate the unrepealed provisions of the Act as the Shops Act authority for this area. They are of course also responsible for enforcement of the hours of closing orders and the requirements for the employment of young persons, etc.

RODENT AND OTHER PEST CONTROL.

The Witham Council is a full member of the Braintree, Halstead and Witham Joint Rodent Control Committee. The Committee's operatives undertake all disinfestation work in the district, including disinfestation of agricultural holdings under annual contract, which has been maintained by the joint local authorities ever since this service was relinquished by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The number of contracts with owners of Agricultural holdings for 1965 was 13. The free domestic treatment service remains unaltered.

Details of the year's work are as follows:-

	<u>Non-Agricultural</u>	<u>Agricultural</u>
Inspections made	139	13
Treatment visits	247	97
Infestations found:		
Mice	10	-
Rats (Major)	11	-
Rats (Minor)	102	13

No further surface disinfestation work was carried out with fluoracetamide poisoning during 1965, but this poison has been used for sewer baiting.

Insect Pests.

The following cases of infestation were dealt with:-

Wasps	...	...	...	...	...	40
Carpet Beetles	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hornets	...	...	...	...	...	1

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There were no licensed slaughterhouses within the Urban District at 31st December 1965.

Some small assistance with slaughterhouse duties was given to Dunmow Rural District Council during the year.

MILK AND DAIRIES

All registration and licensing of dairies and other milk premises, producers, dairymen and distributors is now the responsibility of the Essex County Council.

The following registrations were in force at 31st December 1965:-

	<u>Tuberculin Tested</u>	<u>Pasteurised</u>	<u>Sterilised</u>
Dairies (3)	3	3	2
Dealers (5)	5	5	3

Samples of milk retailed in the district were reported by the laboratory to be satisfactory.

ICE CREAM

The registration of manufacturers and vendors and their premises is carried out in the Urban District under the Essex County Council Act 1933, and supervision is exercised to ensure compliance with the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1947-1959. The number of registrations at 31st December 1965 was:-

Manufacturers	Nil
Vendors only	45
Registered Premises	45

In addition, vendors registered in other areas operate within the urban district.

Ice-Cream Sampling.

Ice-Cream is sampled periodically to ascertain its standard of bacterial purity. 63 such samples were taken during the year, and the results were as follows:-

Bacteriologist's Description	Fruit Ices	Ministry of Health's Provisional Grading				Total
		I	II	III	IV	
Satisfactory	-	40	-	-	-	40
Passable	-	-	8	-	-	8
Unsatisfactory	-	-	-	14	1	15
Totals	-	40	8	14	1	63

Unsatisfactory reports are referred to the authority of the district of origin, and to the makers.

Other Food Samples: (for bacteriological examination)

	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Sausages (all types)	1	-
Meat Pies	3	-
Sliced Meats	9	-
Flour Confectionary	3	-
Milk	9	1

In addition a number of meat pies, discoloured or stale, were surrendered for disposal. These were found on laboratory examination not to contain pathological organisms.

One tin of corned beef showing surface decomposition of the meat was also submitted to laboratory, with similar result.

Prosecutions.

Proceedings were taken against a local retailer under Section 2 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 in respect of a cigarette end found in a loaf of bread. A total of £16.16.0d. fines and costs was imposed.

OTHER FOOD HYGIENE MATTERS

The number of premises where food is manufactured, prepared, stored or retailed, is as follows:-

Residential Hotels	4
Restaurants	6
Factory and School Canteens	12
Manufacturing Butchers	3
Bakehouses	1
Fried Fish Shops	2
Retail Butchers' Shops	8
Other Retail Food Shops	56
Retail Wet Fish Shops	2
Licensed Premises and Clubs	21
Fruit Packers	1
Fruit Juice Concentrates	1
Maltings	1
Poultry Packing Station	1

A number of mobile food vans tour the area. There is no food market in Witham.

All are subject to inspection, 165 visits having been made during the year. The standard of hygiene is generally satisfactory, but in a number of cases attention was called to defects in premises and operation requiring to be rectified. No formal action in respect of these was found to be necessary.

Poultry Packing.

Daily inspections were carried out at the Poultry Packing Station of all birds rejected by plant staff for any degree of abnormal appearance in carcase or offal. Unfit birds are either wholly or partly condemned, as necessary, and the remainder passed, usually for jointing.

Condemnation of Food (other than Meat).

Long standing contact with the local food establishments has resulted in regular notification to the Public Health department of all unfit and suspected foods. A considerable quantity is voluntarily surrendered for condemnation in this manner. No unfit food was found during routine inspections. The Department takes possession of all food surrendered and arranges for its disposal at the refuse tip. 10 cwts. 2 qrs. 2 lbs. of various foods were dealt with in this way during 1965. This quantity included 395 birds condemned at the Poultry packing station. The majority of these were emaciated or found to be dead on arrival at the packing station.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955.

Sampling.

No formal samples were taken by the Urban District Inspectors under Section 91 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955, but a number of informal samples have been submitted at the request of members of the public. The sampling officer of the Food and Drugs Authority (Essex County Council) has kindly supplied the following Table showing results of formal sampling in the Witham district during 1965.

Commodity	Taken in Witham Urban District	Taken outside Urban District on premises of Wholesalers who supply shops within Witham Urban District
Baking Powder	1	
Butter		1
Bread	1	
Breakfast Cereals	2	1
Cake Mixtures	2	
Coffee Mixtures		3
Cooked Meats		9
Custard Powder	1	1
Dessicated Coconut		2
Dried Vegetables	1	
Edible Gelatine		1
Flour - Plain	1	2
Flour - Self Raising		3
Jellies		5
Margarine		2
Marzipan	1	
Meat Paste		1
Soft Drinks		4
Suet		1
Preserves		2
Mincemeat		1
Sausages		2
Tinned Meat	1	
TOTALS	11	41

All samples were found to be satisfactory.

Milk Samples taken in Witham Urban District during 1965.

Number of samples taken: 14.

All samples were found to be satisfactory.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The pattern of the concentration of products of combustion in the atmosphere of the town of Witham remained much the same as in previous years. Daily smoke and sulphur dioxide recordings are maintained and the records forwarded to the Fuel Research Station of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research for inclusion in the National Survey. No significant degree of pollution has been noted, except during short periods of foggy conditions, when the build-up of contaminating materials in the air, though not critical, indicates clearly the need to prevent any increase in their general concentration.

Industrial furnaces and boiler installations are inspected under the Clean Air Act provisions, and chimney heights for new premises assessed in accordance with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government Memorandum. It is both illogical and unfair that furnaces installed in public authority and Crown properties do not have to submit to this control.

No smoke control areas have been declared by the Council.

STAFF.

Details of the Department's staff at 31st December 1965 were:-

Office: Chief Public Health Inspector, Meat and Foods Inspector.
Deputy Public Health Inspector, Meat and Foods Inspector.
Technical Assistant.
Secretary.
Junior Clerical Assistant.
Part-time General Assistant.

Cleansing: 2 Chargehands.
2 Driver/Loaders.
4 Refuse Loaders.
1 Salvage Baler.

Sewage Disposal: 1 Works Manager,
2 Chargehands
4 Sewage Disposal Labourers
1 Digger/Loader Driver
1 Tractor Driver
2 Cesspool/Gulley Emptyer Drivers.

The average age of the permanent outside staff is 42 years.

ATTORNEYS FOR THE GOVERNMENT

The pattern of the concentration of products of production in the hands of the few is being examined and the same as in previous years. The results of the examination are being reported to the Board of Directors of the Government. The results of the examination are being reported to the Board of Directors of the Government. The results of the examination are being reported to the Board of Directors of the Government.

Name	Position	Office
Mr. J. Edgar Hoover	Director	Washington, D.C.
Mr. Clegg	Chief of Bureau	Washington, D.C.
Mr. Glavin	Chief of Bureau	Washington, D.C.
Mr. Ladd	Chief of Bureau	Washington, D.C.
Mr. Nichols	Chief of Bureau	Washington, D.C.
Mr. Rosen	Chief of Bureau	Washington, D.C.
Mr. Tracy	Chief of Bureau	Washington, D.C.
Mr. Carson	Chief of Bureau	Washington, D.C.
Mr. Egan	Chief of Bureau	Washington, D.C.

The average age of the employees of the Bureau is 41 years. The average age of the employees of the Bureau is 41 years. The average age of the employees of the Bureau is 41 years.

